Production of Ampicillin Trihydrate

3093. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:
SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 678 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th September, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 6 APA is also used for the production of Ampicillin Trihydrate and inputs used for its production are also allowed for import with duty concession;

(b) what are the direct and indirect items used by the producers of Ampicillin which are given duty concessions and what is the extent of concession percentage wise and magnitude wise on each input and the final drugs; and

(c) what is the import price of drug and what is the import content based on the price as fixed by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of the imported items used for the production of Ampicillin Trihydrate on which duty concessions have been allowed were given in reply to parts (a) and (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 678 answered on 5th September, 1991. The customs duty on these items have been reduced to 95 per cent.

(c) Import prices of individual drugs are not being monitored by this Ministry.

Exemption of Life saving drugs from customs and excise duty

3094. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of essential and life-saving drugs for which Government have received requests during 1991 for exemption of custom duty and excise duty;

(b) when each request was received;

(c) whether it is a fact that medicine for Kalazar is not available and people are dying because of the non-availability of medicine;

(d) if so, what is the number of persons died during 1991;

(e) what is the custom dtuy on pentamidine executed for Kalazar and what steps have been taken to exempt duty;

(f) what is the excise duty on indigenous medicine based on Cyclosporin required for organ transplantation;

(g) what steps have been taken by Government to exempt excise duty on this medicine;

(h) whether it is also a fact that imported raw material required for manufacture of Drug for Aids attracts Custom duty whereas imported finished medicines based on this drug is exempted from duty; and

(i) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The nationalisation of customs duty and excise duty is an on-going process. The proposal of customs duty and excise duty rationalisation are examined in the department as and when received and appropriate recommendations are sent to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance on merits on case to case basis.

(c) and (d) It has been reported by Ministry of Health that there is shortage of medicine for combating Kala-Azar and concerned companies have been asked to explore the possibilities to start the indigenous production of this medicine. Details of deaths due to non-availability of medicines of Kala-Azar etc. is not monitored by this Ministry.

(e) The bulk drug used for manufacturing Pentamidine Injection and Pentamidine Injection in the finished form, are exempted from custom duty.